

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4347

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6946

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, SF, PFOR

SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL RES ON EXPULSION OF SOUTH AFRICA

REF: CANBERRA 6929 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (PIPER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, UN BRANCH) CALLED EMBOFF OCT 23 TO REVIEW CURRENT STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN STANCE ON SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF EXPULSION OF SOUTH AFRICA. DFA HAD JUST SEEN FROM PRESS TICKER THAT KENYA AND MAURENTANIA HAVE INTRODUCED RES ON SUBJECT, BUT TEXT NOT AVAILABLE IN CANBERRA.

2. MATTER BEING DISCUSSED BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS, AND FOREIGN MINISTER WILLESEE, THOUGH LATTER STILL IN PERTH, CONFINED TO BED. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION TELLS US THAT SIR MORRICE JAMES (HIGH COMMISSIONER) IS IN PERTH AND WILL TRY TO SEE WILLESEE TO MAKE FURTHER POINTS IN HOPE OF GETTING AUSTRALIA AT LEAST TO ABSTAIN. BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER AIRES WILL MAKE SAME POINTS IN CANBERRA TO RENOUF,
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SECRETARY OF DFA, PROBABLY TODAY.

3. HOWEVER, PIPER INDICATED TO EMBASSY THAT DIRECTION OF AUSTRALIAN THINKING IS TOWARDS SUPPORT FOR EXPULSION OF SOUTH AFRICA. DFA ITSELF HAS NOT RPT NOT MADE A RECOMMENDATION TO FOREIGN MINISTER, SINCE PRIME MINISTER IS ALREADY WILL AWARE OF ISSUE FOR DECISION. AUSTRALIAN PERM REP IN NEW YORK, SIR LAURENCE MCINTYRE, NOW ASSESSES THAT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE AT LEAST EIGHT VOTES FOR EXPULSION RES (BYELO RUSSIA, PRC, IRAQ, INDONESIA, MAURETANIA, KENYA, USSR, AND CAMEROON). MCINTYRE BELIEVES THAT PERU WILL ULTIMATELY VOTE FOR IT AS WELL. HE ASSUMES THAT AUSTRIA AND COSTA RICA WILL ABSTAIN, AND THAT U.S., U.K., AND FRANCE WILL EITHER ABSTAIN OR VETO. PIPER BELIEVES THAT, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, U.S. AND/OR U.K. WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO VETO EXPULSION RES, UNLESS THERE IS LAST-MINUTE CHANGE IN DIRECTION.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH AUSTRALIAN DECISION, ACCORDING TO PIPER, HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE, WE BELIEVE WHITLAM WILL DECIDE TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION AND WILL SO INSTRUCT AUSTRALIAN PERM REP. WHITLAM IS EMOTIONALLY COMMITTED ON SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUE AS A WHOLE, AND RATIONAL ARGUMENTS SEEM UNLIKELY TO SWAY HIM. HE IS AWARE OF THE PRINCIPAL POINTS THAT CAN BE MADE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN EXPULSION AND HAS BRUSED THEM ASISDE. WE BELIEVE THAT PIPER IS CORRECT, WHEN HE COMMENTED (ABOVE) THAT U.S., U.K., AND FRANCE WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO VETO RES, BARRING LAST-MINUTE CHANGE IN SITUATION.
GREEN

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